Respond to the Issue for Part 3:

Implications and Consequences of Globalization

In the previous five chapters, you explored aspects of the Main Issue for Part 3: ***To what extent does globalization contribute to sustainable prosperity for all people?*** In this project, you will consider this issue by working in a team to examine multiple perspectives related to the development and sustainability of one natural resource of your choice, in the context of globalization.

1. First, you will participate in a research inquiry in a small team. In your inquiry, you will find out about your chosen resource and various people's perspectives about it.
2. Next, you will have a chance to write a team position paper that presents multiple perspectives on one contentious issue related to sustainable prosperity.
3. As a team, you will present your position paper, orally, to the class.
4. Finally, you will participate in a class discussion to consider resource development and sustainability in relation to the resources the class investigated.

What Is a Position Paper?

The formal persuasive position paper is an excellent device for demonstrating your use of higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information. In this project, you can use it to convey the breadth and depth of your knowledge about global interactions and your understandings about various perspectives on issues related to globalization.

A persuasive position paper is sometimes called an argumentative position paper. You present various perspectives on a topic, and then present arguments in support of one position. When a topic is controversial, the various perspectives or points of view about it can be contradictory. As long as each opposing perspective is supported by credible evidence, such as a case study or reliable data, then each perspective is valid.

Writing persuasively means that you present an argument to convince your reader or listener of a particular position. Sometimes that position matches one of the perspectives you present in the paper. Sometimes that position takes a qualified approach that takes into account the strongest features of two or more of the perspectives you presented.

Planning

- Form a team of three to five students.
- Together, choose one renewable or non-renewable resource about which there is or has been controversy regarding its development and sustainability. You might choose fresh water, oil, teakwood, cod, whales, minerals, or another resource after consulting with your teacher.
- Refer to the Inquiry Model graphic on the inside front cover of this book to review the *planning*, *retrieving*, *processing*, and *sharing* phases of inquiry.
- Consult with your teacher to establish criteria for your research process and product. Develop a final marking scheme for your presentation.
- Refer to the Skill Path for Chapter 13 (pages 270–271) to review ways and means of sharing views respectfully.
- Assign tasks.
- Establish deadlines for completing and presenting your paper.

Retrieving

Now you can research the implications and consequences of globalization on the development and sustainability of your chosen resource. As you research, take notes and gather quotations to help you present various perspectives on your topic. Find statistics, maps, or graphics that support one perspective or another. Read over the list of "Questions You Might Ask" on the next page to help you think about what to look for. If you choose to conduct a geographic investigation, refer to the Skill Path for Chapter 10 (pages 207–208). If you choose to investigate the history of the resource's development, refer to the Skill Path for Chapter 11 (pages 227–228). Collect the bibliographic information of any sources you use.

Processing and Creating

Getting Started

- After your team is finished *retrieving*, compare notes about the various perspectives you discovered.
- Identify the main perspectives and the potential position of the team. If you are faced with a difficulty in making a team decision about the direction you should take in your paper, refer to the Skill Path for Chapter 14 (pages 289–290).
- Work out a general structure for your position paper (introduction, perspective 1, perspective 2, perspective 3, team's position, conclusion).

Questions You Might Ask

When researching the implications and consequences of the globalization of your chosen natural resource, try to find answers to some of these questions. If one or two turn up extensive material and interesting perspectives, you might use those as the basis for your position paper.

- Who has a connection to the land where the natural resource is extracted? How are they affected? What is their perspective about the industry?
- Do the extraction or manufacturing stages cause pollution or otherwise harm the environment? If so, how are these problems addressed?
- Who benefits economically from the resource extraction? For example, how many people in various countries have jobs related to this natural resource?
- Who benefits because they can purchase the product? For example, to what countries does Canada export this natural resource? What industries use this product to manufacture goods for export?
- What resource development agreements, if any, have been put in place to address various perspectives?
- What environmental legislation, if any, has been put in place to regulate or counteract the impacts of globalization?

Assessing the Information

- Differentiate between fact and opinion. You will want to use facts to support various perspectives and your team's position.
- Identify biased information, or unsupported opinion.
- Distinguish between essential and non-essential information.

Selecting Information

- Critically select works to support key perspectives related to the topic, and the team's position.
- Identify primary and secondary sources that could be used as evidence or justification for various perspectives.

Begin Writing

- Use the computer and word-processing software to compose a first draft, or write it by hand.
- Incorporate your supporting information, including primary and secondary source documents, graphic organizers, and facts and figures.
- Develop the team's considered position on the topic, being sure to support the position with information already in the paper.
- Write the introduction and conclusion.

Revising

- Analyze and revise writing to improve organization, coherence, clarity of thought, vocabulary, and sentence variety.
- Review and edit work for spelling, usage, clarity, and fluency.

Sharing

Transforming Your Position Paper for an Audience

Sit down with your team and think of a way to present the main perspectives you discovered, and your team's position, in an imaginative format. Your goal? To capture and keep your audience's attention so they can benefit from your insights on your topic.

In your oral delivery, use a variety of strategies such as eliminating needless detail, using attention-getters, repeating key phrases for added emphasis, and making smooth transitions. Adjust your oral techniques to suit the mood of your audience.

As an alternative to an oral presentation, you may prefer to transform your position paper into an editorial. In that case, refer to the Skill Path for Chapter 12 (pages 249–250).

Reflecting on the Process

Consider your work during the *creating* phase of your research. How did you organize information to write your team's position paper? What means, materials, and technologies did you use? Did you think about your audience when you transformed your position paper into a format that would appeal to them? What would you change about your presentation if you had an opportunity to do it over again?

Sum Up in a Closing Discussion

After all the presentations, as a class discuss the Main Issue for Part 3: ***To what extent does globalization contribute to sustainable prosperity for all people?*** Refer to examples from the presentations as you participate in the discussion.

How do your conclusions help you to continue your exploration of the Key Issue for this course: ***To what extent should we embrace globalization?***